



State Revolving Fund Loan Programs

Drinking Water, Wastewater, Nonpoint Source

PROGRAM UPDATE

January 2005

Happy New Year! The SRF Loan Program is off to a quick start in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2005, which actually started on July 1. During the first six months of SFY 2005, the SRF Loan Program closed 19 loans totaling more than \$185 Million. For comparison, the program closed a total of 22 loans for approximately \$127 Million during the entire 2004 SFY.

Even more exciting than the number of loans closed, is the amount of savings being provided to Indiana Communities through SRF's reduced interest costs. During the first six months of SFY 2005, those 19 communities saved an estimated \$24 Million in interest expense when their SRF interest rate was compared with the interest rate they may have received by closing an open market loan. This savings helps communities limit user rate increases, thereby providing additional personal income to their residents.

Please read on about the other SRF activities that have occurred during the first half of SFY 2005.

Jim McGoff, Executive Director
Indiana SRF Loan Programs

INSPECTION PROGRAM

Communities and consulting engineers have participated in the SRF inspections of ten wastewater projects and six drinking water projects over the past six months. It is rewarding for SRF staff to tour facilities for which they approved preliminary engineering reports (PERs), and to see SRF Loan dollars converted into facilities that provide clean, safe water!

The SRF Program conducts construction inspections of SRF financed projects to fulfill the requirements of 327 IAC 13-12-7(3) and 327 IAC 14-11-7(3). The purpose of the SRF inspection program is to ensure that a SRF Program funded project is being constructed in a manner consistent with what was approved in the PER, authorized for contract award and approved for disbursement.

The following drinking water projects were inspected: Reelsville, Rockville, Beverly Shores, Palmyra, Mount Vernon, and Bloomington. Wastewater project inspections included: Lafayette, Mount Vernon, Milan, Liberty RSD, Angola, Owensville, Petersburg, Hanover, New Albany, and Seymour. A special thanks to Seymour for serving as our inspector standardization training site prior to SFY 2005! *More on inspections in next month's issue.*

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS

Categorical Exclusions (CEs) continue to assist communities that wish to accelerate their important water quality improvement projects. Two communities were issued CEs during the first half of SFY 2005. **The City of Beech Grove** closed on a SRF loan within two months of applying for it. Beech Grove applied for a WWSRF loan on August 4th and closed its SRF loan on October 10th. Since the proposed project entailed sanitary sewer rehabilitation and no increased capacity, the City was able to take advantage of the categorical exclusion from substantive environmental review and use already prepared project summaries for its PER. Hats off to Beech Grove for addressing its sewer system and the infiltration and inflow conditions that have caused problems for its residents.

The Town of Universal met with the DWSRF staff to discuss its water treatment rehabilitation project on November 8th and closed its loan December 30th. The town will replace the aerator, chlorine contact cell, filter cells and filter media within the treatment unit.

TIME TO APPLY!

Drinking Water and Wastewater SRF Applications along with their respective guidance documents are available on line at www.srf.in.gov. If you would like a hard copy mailed to you or have any questions about completing them, please contact Shelley Love, Wastewater Administrator, at 317-232-4396 or Lou Renshaw, Section Chief, at 317-232-8655. The deadline is April 1st. Just one application will do if a Nonpoint Source (NPS) project will accompany the wastewater or drinking water project. Include details of the NPS project on the application along with the expected environmental benefits.

New Scoring for Wastewater Projects, New Ranking Process for both Programs

For SFY 2006, we are making changes to our Programs to better serve our customers and achieve the goals of clean, safe water. Changes include the revised scoring system of wastewater projects and a new ranking system for both drinking water and wastewater projects. PERs, rather than applications, will be scored and ranked. All submitted applications will appear on the Project Priority List (PPL) un-ranked until a PER is submitted. As in the past, the award of planning grants will be based upon PPL rankings. This recognizes project readiness and benefits those communities that have made a concerted effort to improve their water quality.

Staff Updates

We are pleased to announce that Beth McMinn is our new Financial Analyst/Accountant. Beth has a B.S. in Business Administration and Accounting and has past experience in state government as a Financial Manager for the Department of Commerce-Energy Policy Division and a Budget Analyst for the State Budget Agency. She recently worked as an accountant for American United Life Insurance Company before returning to state government.

Shelley Love has assumed a new role with the SRF Programs as its Wastewater Administrator. She looks forward to assisting communities through the process of getting a WWSRF loan.

Tony Pappano has added the role of Disbursement Coordinator to his duties as a Financial Analyst. Tony has been with the SRF Programs since April of 2003. Tony has a B.S. in Public Financial Management from the Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs.

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